

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 03869 280856Z
ACTION EUR-12

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AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00
DLOS-09 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01
TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00
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DIA WASHDC
CINCEUR
CINCUSNAVEUR
CINCUSAFE
USDOCOSOUTH
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 3869

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR,MILI, GR, TU
SUB: GREEK MILITARY EXERCISES IN THE AEGEAN

REF: A. DAO IR 6 837 0077 77 B. ANKARA 2840 (DTG 151307Z APR 77)

1. A LARGE-SCALE GREEK TRAINING EXERCISE CODE-NAMED "AMPHITRITE"
GOT UNDERWAY APRIL 24 IN THE CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN AEGEAN INVOLVING
ALL THREE BRANCHES OF THE MILITARY. LIKEWISE NAVAL MANEUVERS ARE
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PAGE 02 ATHENS 03869 280856Z

SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN EARLY MAY ELSEWHERE IN THE AEGEAN.
SEIZING UPON THESE TWO EXERCISES, SOME OF THE MEDIA AND OTHERS
HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTING TO PORTRAY THEM AS THE GREEK RESPONSE TO
"PROVOCATIONS" BY TURKEY IN THE AEGEAN AS WELL AS A CHALLENGE TO
GREEK (AIRSPACE) SOVEREIGNTY BY NATO. SOME STORIES INTERPRET
"AMPHITRITE" AS THE GREEK RETORT TO THE CONTROVERSIAL TURKISH
EXERCISES IN THE AEGEAN IN MARCH. MOST VERSIONS EMPHASIZE THAT THE

MAY EXERCISE BY THE GREEK MILITARY WILL COINCIDE WITH THE EXPECTED NEW ACTIVITY IN MAY (REFTEL B) BY THE TURKISH RESEARCH VESSEL SISMİK I WHICH WAS THE CAUSE FOR STRAINED RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES LAST SUMMER. STILL OTHER REPORTS CORRELATE THE GREEK MAY MANEUVERS WITH THE NATO "DAWN PATROL" EXERCISE (MAY 8-16), WHILE A FEW NOTE IT WILL COINCIDE WITH THE CARTER-CARAMANLIS TALKS IN LONDON.

2. A "RESPONSIBLE SOURCE" COMMENTED THAT THE GREEK EXERCISES HAVE NO RELATION TO THE NATO EXERCISE, TO THE SISMİK I OR TO THE AEGEAN CRISIS. HE STATED THAT BOTH MANEUVERS HAD BEEN PLANNED SINCE DECEMBER AND THAT THEY WERE BEING CONDUCTED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF A CONTINUING PROGRAM OF MAINTAINING THE MILITARY AT A HIGH DEGREE OF PREPAREDNESS.

3. COMMENT: AS REPORTED EARLIER (REF A), THE GOG HAS A YEARLY SCHEDULE OF TRAINING EXERCISES, AND WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT "AMPHITRITE" OR THE MAY MANEUVERS ARE OUTSIDE OF THIS ONGOING PROGRAM. IN THE PAST, SIMILAR EXERCISES HAVE NORMALLY TAKEN PLACE IN CONFINED AREAS OF THE WESTERN AEGEAN WHICH ARE NOT CONTIGUOUS TO THE DISPUTED AREAS, AND "AMPHITRITE" FITS THE PATTERN. WHILE NEWSPAPERS MAY HAVE MADE THE LINK BETWEEN THE GREEK MILITARY EXERCISES AND THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE AEGEAN ISSUE, THE GOG HAS NOT ATTEMPTED TO DO SO OFFICIALLY.
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Message Attributes

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